

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that Western New York AmeriCorps will receive a \$1,087,819 award to provide green-job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youths in Buffalo.

The grant comes from the Department of Labor's (DOL) YouthBuild program, a competitive grant program that prepares teens and young adults for careers in construction through on-site and in-classroom training. The Western New York YouthBuild program will partner with a variety of community leaders, including Erie Community College, to train participants in green building and energy efficiency concepts.

"Energy efficiency and green jobs are playing an increasingly important role in Western New York's economy," said Slaughter. "I'm so pleased to see this grant being awarded to train the next generation with the skills needed to work in the green economy of the future. These educational and training opportunities are vital to our future economic prospects and the creation of new jobs in Western New York."

The Western New York YouthBuild program will use electric reduction audit equipment, blower door technology and an insulation blower to train participants in energy efficient construction.

After participants attain their GED certificate, they are enrolled in the Erie Community College Pre-Collegiate Studies Program. Graduating students are then eligible for a number of post-graduation training programs that will aid them in obtaining employment in the construction trades industry.

"At WNY AmeriCorps we are constantly trying to increase the opportunities for individuals to serve the Buffalo community," said Western New York AmeriCorps Executive Director Kate Sarata. "I get excited on days like today to know that yet another 64 at risk young people in Western New York will get the opportunity to learn and grow their skills while improving Buffalo's housing stock. In a federal budget where YouthBuild funding was cut by over 50 percent this year, this announcement says to me that we continue to do it the right way."

Western New York YouthBuild will work to provide these opportunities along with the following

key partners Old First Ward Community Center, Erie Community College; Buffalo and Erie County Workforce Development Consortium, Savarino Construction; the Corps Network, Home Depot, New Directions Youth and Family Services, the Massachusetts Avenue Project, Cazenovia Resource Center; Compass House, Genesis Behavioral Consulting; Ingersoll Painting and Construction, Vogel Plumbing, Comfort Control Heating and Cooling, Buffalo Roof, and Superior Walls and Electric.

There are over 220 DOL funded YouthBuild programs in 43 states serving over 6,000 youth per year.